HEADQUARTERS 66TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 454
UNITED STATES ARMY

ORDER OF THE DAY

13 March 1945.

To every member of the 66th Infantry Division and Attached Troops.

Having just returned from an inspection of our troops, I should like to take this opportunity to reassert my pride and confidence in the officers and men of the Division and its attached units. Our mission of caging up 60,000 battlewise and toughened Jerries in their Atlantic Wall may not seem to be a spectacular or glamorous job, but neither is any tough job in war. We have an arduous mission here and you may be sure that history will record it as an important one in the defeat of Germany.

Those of you on the front line are well aware now of the calibre of your opponent. He is the same fanatical, hard, and adroit fighter who stands with his back to the wall in other German strongholds and who will stay there until he is destroyed. You have been engaged with him two months now in combat as bitter and as uncompromising as can be found on any battlefront, and you have proved your individual superiority.

The magnificent spirit with which each one of you has endured hardships, and the courage and tenacity with which you have carried on in these past two months, has filled everyone with confidence and self-assurance. Some of you have seen your friends die. You have suffered wounds and pain. You have felt the miseries of cold and hunger and you have experienced the terror and drudgery of war.

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The determination of our infantrymen standing guard on the front lines, and their skill and daring on patrols and missions behind the enemy lines have been inspiring. The constant vigil they have kept under the eyes of a numerically superior force has won our complete admiration. Our artillerymen have been outstanding, and their teamwork and cooperation with infantry units has been superb. The potential powers of the Division as a team have been effectively demonstrated by the close teamwork between the infantry and artillery. Reconnaissance units with great courage have been flushing the enemy fron his hiding places and revealing his strength. The work of the engineers and the medical services--both on the line and behind the line--fills us with faith. Backing up the troops of the line, our service and supply units have driven tirelessly to insure that all our fighting needs are fulfilled.

The success of our first combat assignment is not something that just happened. It is the result of long and hard months of training, of discipline in the ranks, and confidence in yourselves. Our accomplishments bear proof that we are capable of any combat assignment. Here in France in a little more than two months you have grown wise in the ways of war, you have outsmarted an enemy more experienced and numerically superior, you have won the admiration of our French Allies, and you have gained the abiding respect of your fellow-soldiers, your commanders, and myself.

H. F. Kramer

H. F. KRAMER
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding